

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at **page 3, lines 14 to 19**, as follows:

The sealing portion of the housing head and that of the housing bowl can abut directly against each other. Thus the apparatus can dispense with an O ring and can employ a simple structure to have the seal. Thus the apparatus can be free of contaminants otherwise introduced from an O ring. Furthermore, the absence of the O ring ~~[[can]]~~ contributes to a reduction of the cost for the components of the apparatus.

Please amend the paragraph at **page 4, lines 14 to 18**, as follows:

When the protrusion is pushed into the recess by the clamping means the recess can elastically deform and increase in width and its resilience ~~[[can]]~~ allows two reliable seals to be provided between the recess and the protrusion. This can significantly facilitate the production of the apparatus and the assembly and disassembly of the same.

Please amend the paragraph at **page 6, lines 7 to 11**, as follows:

Figs. 5A and 5B show a structure of ~~[[a]]~~ sealing portions of the filtration apparatus of a second embodiment of the present invention. More specifically, Fig. 5A shows an upper end of the housing bowl and a flange of the housing head detached from each other and Fig. 5B shows the

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upper end of the housing bowl and a sealing portion together forming a seal;

Please insert a new paragraph at page 7, between lines 30 and 31, as follows:

As shown in the axial cross-section of Fig. 2, the protrusion 32 has an overall curved arcuate shape including a radially inner arcuate portion pressing against an inner wall portion of the recess 31 to form the inner sealing point 33, and a radially outer arcuate portion pressing against an outer wall portion of the recess 31 to form the outer sealing point 34. Also, it should be understood that each one of the sealing points 33 and 34 forms a continuous circular or annular seal extending continuously circumferentially around the joint between the protrusion 32 and the recess 31.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]

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